

***Anomis fulvida* Guenée (Lep.: Noctuidae): first pest record on *Hibiscus syriacus* L. at 1685 metres (5500 feet) altitude in the Kumaon Hills, India**

The larvae of *Anomis fulvida* were observed feeding on the bark of the ornamental plant Gurhal *Hibiscus syriacus* from mid-August to October at Pithoragarh, some 1685 metres above sea level in the Kumaon Hills of India. The larvae were green and almost resembled the plant's leaves making them hard to locate. Fully grown larvae measured between 3.3 and 3.8 cms. Feeding damage is recognised by the appearance of white patches on the stems and feeding appears to take place predominantly on the mid-portion of the plant stem rather than at higher or lower levels. Larvae collected and reared in the laboratory on the same pabulum pupated rapidly and yielded adults after 9 - 10 days. The yellowish adult moths survived only 3 - 4 days.

The moth has previously been reported as a pest causing damage to guava fruits in Himachal Pradesh and to citrus fruits in Himalaya. It has also been reported as a sporadic pest of cotton causing serious damage to the crop (Nair, 1986. *Insects and Mites of Crops in India*. Indian Council of Agricultural Research). *Hibiscus syriacus* has been reported being attacked by *Clinetoria spilota* Hope (Arif & Joshi, 1992. *Prog. Hort.* **24**: 120) and *Popilla cupricollis* Hope, *P. cyanea* Hope and *Heterorhina mutabilis* Hope (Arif *et al.* *Sci. & Cult.* **59**: 43).

Examination of available literature reveals that this is the first report of *Anomis fulvida* from the central Himalaya. We are grateful to Dr J.D. Holloway and the Director of the International Institute for Entomology, London, for identification of *Anomis fulvida*.— MOHOMMAD ARIF AND NARENDRA KUMAR, Defence Agricultural Research Laboratory, Pithoragarh (UP), 262 502, India.

Late moths in the Isle of Wight during 1997

On 6 November I took an example of *Ourapteryx sambucaria* (Linn.) at light, which happens to be the latest that I have ever taken it – beating the 2 November record in 1994. On 1 December I recorded a very late *Apamea monoglypha* (Hfn.) which was one of several that I noted in the late autumn although in favourable years there are second brood examples of this species in the south. On 12 December I found a freshly emerged *Gymnoscelis rufifasciata* (Haw.) in the sitting room; this could have been breeding on indoor plants and emerged indoors. In previous years I have recorded this species as late as 28 November at light in the garden. All three species were observed at Freshwater.— S.A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, Freshwater, Isle of Wight PO40 9AL.

Information wanted: insects in poetry

As part of a research project into insects in poetry, I would like to hear from anyone who knows of poems by any poet, classical or contemporary, published or unpublished in which an insect or insects of any order are featured specifically or generally. All correspondence will be acknowledged. John Tennent, 1 Middlewood Close, Fylingthorpe, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO22 4UD.